

United Methodist Church of Danielson
 9 Spring Street
 Danielson CT 06239
 (860-779-2018) umcd@snet.net



TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Message from Bishop Devadhar

Church hours:

Sunday Worship Service 10:30am
 Sunday School 9:30am
 Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On Sunday, May 24, we shall celebrate Pentecost, Aldersgate Day, and Heritage Sunday. Then on Monday, May 25, we celebrate Memorial Day.

Thinking about these four days reminded me of the words of Dr. Jack Levison, a professor at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, as he reflected upon Zechariah 4:6: "[The angel] said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'" In his book Dr. Levison writes:

"Today, after a whole lot of living and study, I understand the work of the Spirit differently. Here's why. After half a century of exile, the Persian Empire sent the Israelites home in 539 BCE with the mandate to rebuild Jerusalem,

which the Babylonians had destroyed. The Persians also sent the exiles home with the warning not to raise a whiff of rebellion. Enter Zechariah, a prophet and political realist who directed his energies to recreating a faithful little province – Jerusalem may only have been four or five acres with four or five hundred inhabitants – that would not raise the eyebrows of Persian power.

"Zechariah showed me that my tidy division between religion and politics, the Spirit and social reform, was convenient but not true – and certainly not scriptural. Zechariah plotted and planned the nation's future with the politicians in charge. He talked religion. He talked politics. Zechariah knew that the temple would be rebuilt both Persia's way and by God's Spirit. "In this context of prudent optimism, Zecha-

riah pronounced the famous words, 'Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.' These words were both promise and warning: King David's distant heir, Zerubbabel, governor of the province of Yehud (Judah), would rebuild the temple, though, according to Persia's mandate, without a trace of political ambition.

"Achieving political ends without political ambition is a tricky business. Zechariah knows this, so he tells Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple, 'not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit.' The work of reformation can be – should be – the work of the Spirit."

As we ponder these words in the context of Pentecost Sunday, Aldersgate Day, Heritage Sunday and Memorial Day, may I prayerfully request you explore the following:

First, when I served as a pastor of local churches, it was my experience that the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend usually had low attendance, mostly due to long weekend travel.

Though I am not against it and understand completely, it is my hope and prayer that we as a faith community also take time to pray and give thanks for those who have given their lives for our country and for those who have suffered physically, mentally and/or spiritually in our country's service.

- Second, the theme for Heritage Sunday is "Welcoming the Stranger." Welcoming strangers is not only a great part of our DNA, it is a Christian mandate. Unfortunately, many of our churches struggle to live this out. May we prayerfully look at ourselves as Christian disciples and examine how we reach out to the strangers in our midst? In my journeys, both within and outside the U.S., one thing that makes me proud to be a United Methodist is the passion with which we have started universities, hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. Through these institutions, we help strangers feel welcome and build relationships.

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Church and Community News

Third, when John Wesley's "heart was strangely warmed," among the things he did was to pray for those who had spitefully used him or persecuted him. May I ask all of us, including me, to seriously consider his example? Who is on our prayer list? Do we include those who hate us and persecute us? We are to pray for our enemies. On Aldersgate Day, and always, may we intentionally pray for those for whom we do not ordinarily pray.

Fourth, as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church universal, may we remember one of the great gifts to the Church, and to all of us: the Holy Spirit. One of the reasons I included the lengthy quote from Dr. Levison is to remind us of the context and culture in which Zechariah had to prophesy and that "The work of reformation can be – should be – the work of the Spirit."

Friends, during the long weekend of May 23-25, may we pause, pray and celebrate. May we listen to the words of the Prophet Zechariah and acknowledge that no matter what challenges or opportunities are before us or how deep, high and wide they are, we will

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embrace and walk with Zechariah's words: "[The angel] said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel; Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.'" (Zechariah 4:6).

The Spirit certainly intercedes for us these days as we struggle to embrace the news of another victim of violence and the enfolding unrest in Baltimore even while across the globe the people of Nepal experience unimaginable devastation in the aftermath of earthquakes.

Words cannot adequately express our anger, pain and confusion. Healing comes not by our might or our power ... but by the Spirit.

May God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Light, and the Holy Spirit our Guide continue to lead us, mold us, and nudge us.

Wishing you a celebrative Day of Pentecost, a meaningful Heritage Sunday, an experiential Aldersgate Day, a thankful Memorial Day, a joyful Mother's Day (for all biological and spiritual mothers), and a loving Festival of the Christian home.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

UNITED METHODIST 101

On the 4th Wednesday of the month (except when we engage in other projects and activities), come to **UNITED METHODISM 101**. It's interactive and is a blend of audio, video, written materials and group discussion.

A lifelong or long-term or new to the United Methodist traditions?" You may be surprised at what you can learn about our United Methodist Church and how it fits into the modern world.

Why are you United Methodist? What is your image of The United Methodist Church? How did that image develop? What would you like to learn about our church? .

You do not have to attend every one and can jump in any time! Come when you can.

6:00pm

See our Calendar in this newsletter.

MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA

March 3-12, 2016

A Mission trip to Nicaragua is being planned. We are asking anyone interested in going to please contact Cathy McNeill at cathymcneill@ymail.com or 860-230-6804. The trip will be 7-10 days long. The focus of the trip will be to continue a relationship that NE Connecticut United Methodist Churches has with the church in Nicaragua. We will be visiting the health program, feeding program and other programs that the New England Conference supports through our mission shares. We will also spend a few days sightseeing. The trip is open to anyone 16 years or older. We will be holding fund raising opportunities to offset the cost of the trip. Start praying about it. More information will be made available.

Please continue to support the ongoing projects of the Outreach Committee:

- Spam, tuna with oil & peanut butter
- * children's underwear
- * old suitcases for Haitian Health Foundation
- * Can tabs for children at Shriners' hospitals
- * Campbell labels for educational supplies
- * Blankets, towels and twin sheets for the homeless shelter
- * Diapers for the local Diaper Bank

The local shelter is looking for shampoo, towels, soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes, coffee cups, soup bowls, silverware, razors, twin sheets and blankets. The sample sizes of personal amenities are welcome too.

Monday morning breakfasts

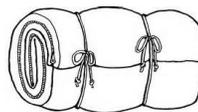
could use any of the following:

- Pancake mix, milk and eggs
- Hash browns
- Bacon/Ham/ Sausages
- Coffee, and Juice
- Or a monetary donation to purchase these items

We are collecting used neck ties for the Golden Bees in Webster to use in making their sleeping bags.

The sleeping bags are distributed through out the Rt 395 corridor. They also need donations of light blankets, material scraps, and thread.

Each sleeping bag comes with a health kit containing:



Wash cloth, hand towel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, bible or inspirational book, shampoo, hand lotion, small pack tissues, etc.

Each sleeping bag also contains a small pillow, hat, scarf, mittens or gloves and socks.

They are always looking for donations of any of the above items. A collection box will be placed in the back of the Narthex.

Don't forget the homeless shelter in Danielson. They look for donations of a lot of the same

MAY CALENDAR

- May 5 Trustee Mtg 6:30
- May 6 Community Kitchen 9-1
- May 7: Choir Practice 6:30 pm
- May 10 **Mother's Day**
- May 10 Tending the Garden Luncheon following the service
- May 11 AD Council Mtg 7:00pm
- May 13 Community Kitchen 9 1 pm
- May 14 Choir Practice 6:30 pm
- May 20 Community Kitchen 9 1 pm
- May 21 Choir Practice 6:30pm
- May 22: Choir Practice 6:30pm
- May 22 Be Our Guest Dinner at @5:00pm
- May 27: Community Kitchen 9 1 pm
- May 28 Choir Practice 6:30pm
- May 27 Methodist 101 @ 6pm
- May 29 Be Our Guest Dinner at @5:00pm
- May 31 Peace with Justice Sunday special offering
- May 31 Worship Committee Mtg after the service

Mothers Day is May 10th





When you want to learn about a new opportunity first-hand, what do you do? You just DO IT. Whether you are perfect or "ready" doesn't matter--you give it a shot, you do what you can to "get your foot in the door." God, in His love for us, gives us the same opportunity to join what He is doing. He could easily do anything without our help at all, but He desires to work through us.

We Don't Want Something from You, We Want Something for You

God is doing some amazing things at Danielson United Methodist Church!

We want you to volunteer, so that you too can join God in what he is doing. We know that God shows up when He gives us what seems like impossible tasks. When we offer what we have, He will use it to accomplish amazing things. We want you to be in on that. We don't want something from you. We want something **for you**: Everybody has something to offer even if it seems small compared to the need. What do you have to offer? How should you join God at

AD COUNCIL SECRETARY

Have you felt the call to become more involved in the "goings on" of the church?

- Do you have a gift for administration?
- Or do you like to listen to people and take notes?

The Administrative Council needs your help. The Ad Council is a group of people who guide the church in the direction of its mission statement through the work of other committees, Christian education, and outreach and mission.

The group seriously needs someone who can take notes (minutes) for the group. A clear account of each meeting is kept by the secretary and sent out to members of the council. The secretary also has a voice on the council as well.

So - how about it?

Interested in knowing more?

Speak with any of the council members - Rick Hoskins, or Pastor Jim.

VARIOUS COMMITTEE SEATS

The Finance Committee

The Trustees

The Creative Angels

All have openings for willing individuals to serve. Please make contact with any council member or let the office know your areas of interest.

Office phone: 860.779.2018

Office email: umcd@snet.net

It is with great sorrow we announce that we will no longer have a presence at the Danielson Farmers Market.

Thank you to Joann Caulder and Sue Theroux for your years and years of being our representation at the market and providing the church with revenue from the regular sales each and every Saturday of the market.

You are true stars of Stewardship.



Interfaith Human
Services of Putnam [IHSP]
2015



STEEPLECHASE BIKE RIDE

Date: Saturday June 13, 2015

Start Location: Christ Episcopal Church
521 Pomfret St. [Route 44] in Pomfret, CT
across from Rectory School

Registration: Begins at 7:00 am

Start Time: 8:00 am



Three Routes throughout NECT:

63 miles [metric century]; 30 miles
[intermediate] and 10 miles [beginners].

Decide which route is best for you.

Bicycle helmet a must. No exceptions.

Cost: Early Rider \$30; \$50 for Family
[more than two]. Register by June 2

After June 2: \$40; \$65 for Family

Register on www.bikereg.com. "IHSP_Putnam" Event Contact: 860-420-9757. Website:
<https://ihspsteeplechase.wordpress.com>

For additional information, contact Shawn Johnston at 860-617-4360, IHSP at 860-928-
0169 and/or Kathi Peterson at 860-455-3552

**Can't participate on the day of the race, or are not a bicycle rider, Be a
Ghost Rider and make a donation to IHSP, P O Box 281, Putnam, CT**

Proceeds will benefit Interfaith Human Services of Putnam's programs including the IHSP-Daily
Bread Food Pantry, IHSP-Diaper Bank of NECT, and IHSP-NU 2 U Clothing Closet. Non-Perishable
food donations accepted.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURES FOR MAY 2015

Let's go for a run or walk together

Westfield Congregational Church is hosting a
Springtime Classic 5K

All proceeds support Westfield Church's Aspire campaign

Saturday May 23rd. 8:30am

Register online at www.fielducc.org/5k

We have a few needy people looking for some items: These are people who have left the shelter and found themselves living accommodations and are setting up home from scratch.

Dressers

Bunkbed, twin beds

Bedding

Kitchen table and chairs

Cooking items

Livingroom furniture

Lamps

Curtains

Baby girl items

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**THE SIGN UP SHEET IS ON
THE BULLETIN BOARD BY
THE KITCHEN DOOR**

UPSTAIRS.

May 3rd · Acts 8:26-40
· Psalm 22:25-31 (UMH 752)
· 1 John 4:7-21
· John 15:1-8

May 10th · Acts 10:44-48
· Psalm 98 (UMH 818)
· 1 John 5:1-6
· John 15:9-17

May 17th · Ascension Sunday
· Acts 1:1-11
· Psalm 47 (UMH 781)
· Ephesians 1:15-23

May 24th · Acts 2:1-21
· Psalm 104:24-34, 35b(UMH826)
· Romans 8:22-27
· John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 31st · Isaiah 6:1-8
· Psalm 29 (UMH 761)
· Romans 8:12-17
· John 3:1-17

Tending the Garden Luncheons

Please join us for a monthly potluck so we may
TEND THE GARDEN

Join us for fellowship and good eats, on the second Sunday of every month directly following worship.

Join us for the next Tend the Garden Luncheon on April 12th!

Please let Pastor Jim know if you would help

MAY VOLUNTEERS

05.03

Liturgist: Barbara Schreier
Greeter: Del Tomasi
Ushers: Kendra & Pat Collins
Tellers: Marsha Hardell & Nate Bramlett

05.24

Liturgist: Joan Caulder
Greeter: Bev Fedorowicz
Ushers: Vernis Kelly & Nate Bramlett
Tellers: Jenelle Provencher & Mildred Briggs

05.10

Liturgist: Sean Remilliard
Greeter: Joyce Davis
Ushers: Kevin Payne & Leon Steveson
Children's Message: Betsy Kneeland
Tellers: Sue Theroux & Barbara Schreier

05.31

Liturgist: Betsy Kneeland
Greeter: Del Tomasi
Ushers: Kendra & Patrick Collins
Tellers: Pam Bramlett & Betsy Kneeland

05.17

Liturgist: Terry Kennedy
Greeter: Vernis Kelly
Ushers: Cranston Briggs & Joyce Davis
Children's Message: Cyndi Perkins
Tellers: Jenelle Provencher & Mildred Briggs

TELLER LIST	
Week 1	Marsha Hardell + Nate Bramlett
Week 2	Sue Theroux + Barbara Schreier
Week 3	Jennelle Provencher + Mildred Briggs
Week 4	Pam Bramlett + Betsy Kneeland
Week 5	Del Tomasi + Nancy Wold
Floaters are:	Kendra Collins Cathy McNeill Barbara Schreier

Office Hours : Monday thru Thursday 9:00am to 12:00pm

Pastor meeting available upon request 860.779.2018